

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 500

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS EI AU IR UNGA EGEN

SUBJ: SPECIAL SESSION UNGA

1. AMB WHITE HAD CONVERSATIONS FEB 13 AND 14 WITH PERMREPS MCINTYRE OF AUSTRALIA, KENNEDY OF IRELAND, AND JANKOWITSCH OF AUSTRIA. PURPOSE WAS GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SPECIAL SESSION AND PREPARATIONS FOR IT.

2. AMB WHITE EXPLAINED US THINKING, IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACHED TO SPECIAL SESSION AS A TEST OF WILLINGNESS OF UN TO MOVE IN A SPIRIT OF NEGOTIATION AND COMPROMISE RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION. SHE EXPLAINED THAT A TASK FORCE WAS TO BE ESTABLISHED SOON IN THE DEPARTMENT, AND A WORKING GROUP WAS NOW UNDERWAY AT USUN CONSIDERING REFORMS IN UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE. ALL THREE AMBS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST, AND INDICATED THEY AGREED ON SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SESSION FOR FUTURE OF THE UN. MCINTYRE POINTED OUT THAT SPECIAL SESSION WOULD SET THE STAGE AND THE TONE FOR THE 30TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY, FOLLOWING IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

3. AMB JANKOWITSCH SAID HE HAD BEEN GIVING THE MATTER SOME THOUGHT HIMSELF. THE FIRST QUESTION TO BE ADDRESSED WAS WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE SOME MECHANISM FOR FORMAL CONSULTATION AMONG THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE THOUGHT THE ANSWER
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SHOULD BE YES--THE LDCS/NON-ALIGNED WERE DOING SO

AMPLEY ON THEIR SIDE. THE SECOND QUESTION WAS WHAT THE FORUM OF CONSULTATION SHOULD BE AND WHO SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN SETTING IT UP. HE THOUGHT THE OCED HAD MUCH TO COMMEND IT, BECAUSE OF ITS COMPETENCE ON ECONOMIC ISSUES INVOLVED. BUT CERTAINLY THE TACTICS HAD TO BE WORKED OUT IN NEW YORK. HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE AN ADVANTAGE IN HAVING SOME SMALLER COUNTRIES TAKE THE LEAD IN SETTING UP THE CONSULTATIONS--PROBABLY A HINT THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ADVERSE TO PLAYING SUCH A ROLE HIMSELF.

4. ALL THREE AMBASSADORS INDICATED THAT THEY FELT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE OF A DESIRE FOR CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION BY THE LDC/NON-ALIGNED, AT LEAST THE MODERATES. AMB JANKOWITSCH REMARKED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE RECOGNITION THAT THE MAJORITY HAD PRESSED TOO FAR AT THE LAST SESSION, THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE GENUINE CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION, AND THAT THEY ARE "WILLING TO PAY A PRICE" TO ACHIEVE IT. BOTH AMBS MCINTYRE AND JANKOWITSCH REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT AMB HOVEYDA, PERMREP OF IRAN, WAS TALKING A GREAT DEAL ABOUT BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN THE TWO CAMPS, POSSIBLY THROUGH THE MECHANISM OF AN INFORMAL WORKING GROUP.

5. ALL THREE AMBS INDICATED THAT THE TIME FOR PREPARATION WAS NOW, AND THAT THEY WANTED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US.
BENNETT

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